

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

1
Ag 84 Pro
Cop. 3

DC BRANCH

#1087

U.S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE LIBRARY

**IS
NATURE**

APR 8 '76

FOREST SERVICE
CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

**ALWAYS
RIGHT**

?

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE

PROGRAM AID NO. 1087

CAN WE REALLY HELP NATURE DO A BETTER JOB ?

Nature often works in slow, ponderous rhythms which are not always efficient. Is this unhurried pace right?

We can help nature do her work in less time. But why should we want to hurry things? There are lots of reasons, most of them having to do with man's need for things the forest can provide.

Today the word seems to be "MORE" — more people, more cities, more desires and needs for goods, more markets for products of the forests, and more leisure for people to enjoy the forest environment.

At nature's unhurried pace we would eventually get all of the things the forest produces. While we waited, though, we would run short of many benefits that we could be having, both material and esthetic.

HOW CAN WE HELP NATURE?



*NATURAL GROWTH RESULTS IN A CROWDED,
HAPHAZARD MIX . . .*



YOUNG TREES GROW FAST, STRUGGLING FOR ROOM. THE STAND SOON BECOMES OVERCROWDED, WITH BOTH GOOD AND POOR TREES COMPETING FOR SURVIVAL.

Trees, like farm and garden crops, grow best when they are not crowded and competing for food, water, and sunlight. By saving the best — and removing the sick, crooked, and injured trees — the forest is made vigorous and productive. In addition to more wood, the benefits from a healthy forest include more food for wildlife, protected watersheds, better soil, and a more pleasant place in which to enjoy the outdoor environment.

Nature eventually thins forest stands, eliminating the less hardy individuals. But this takes place only after they have struggled for long periods, using up valuable space and food in their fight for survival.

We can help nature by speeding up the inevitable. Through early removal of the poor trees, the thrifty individuals are off to an early, healthy start that lets them grow at their best rate.

When a stand of trees is thinned naturally, the process wastes potentially valuable material. The "losers" in the fight for survival merely drop in place and decay.

When a forester gives nature a helping hand, he harvests a useful crop, and then prepares the land for increased yields of timber and plants for wildlife.

The trees that are removed become such items as fenceposts, fuel, and pulp for paper and cardboard.

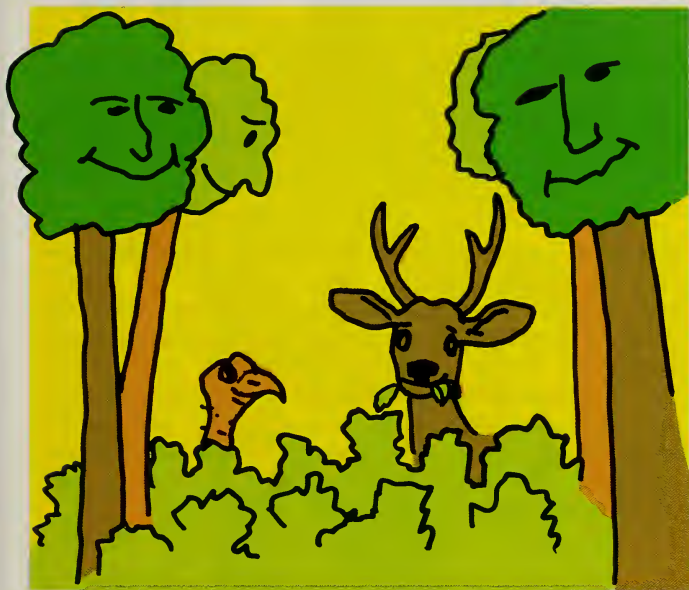
The better trees are left to grow into logs for more valuable products such as lumber for housing and furniture.



*WE CAN HELP NATURE
AS WELL AS OURSELVES!*

WILDLIFE OPENINGS

Helping nature is also helping to do what is best for wildlife. In the mature forest stands, little food or shelter is provided for those birds and animals that depend upon understory plants because practically no undergrowth exists. The shrubs, grasses, vines, and forbs that provide browse, fruit, seeds, and insects are scarce. Thus, populations of deer, quail, rabbits, grouse, and other species that depend upon these understory plants gradually dwindle away.



Where dense stands of mature trees cover vast areas, relatively small populations of wildlife survive. Under good management, forests are opened up to let in the precious sunlight that allows plants to become established and thrive. If forest stands are harvested, replanted to trees, or naturally reseeded, and harvested again in planned and orderly succession, there are always food-filled openings available to wild and domestic animals.

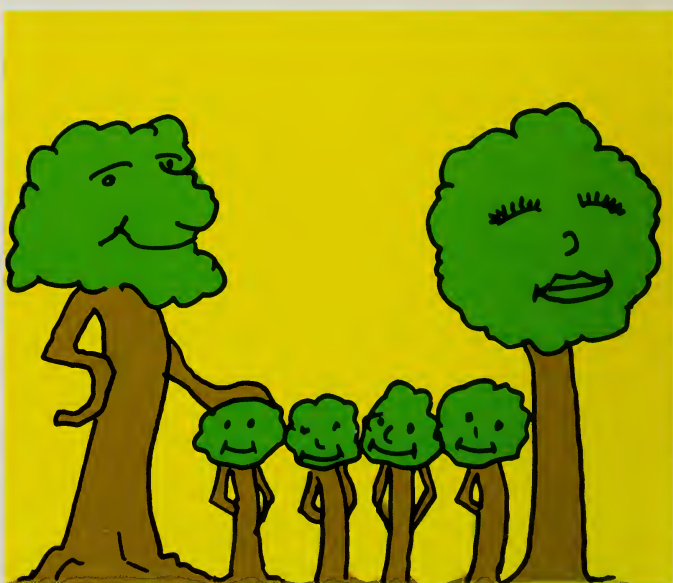
HERE AGAIN — — —

*NATURE RESPONDS TO
A HELPING HAND*

THE RIGHT TREE IN THE RIGHT PLACE.



Nature's "program" for reforestation is based on random distribution of great numbers of seeds, with very little provision for directing them to suitable sites. Man can help by reforesting each area with the tree species best suited to it. This way hardwoods can be planted on sites where they will grow best. Likewise, pines can be planted in areas where they do best, without having to compete with trees that are there by chance and which are struggling to survive.

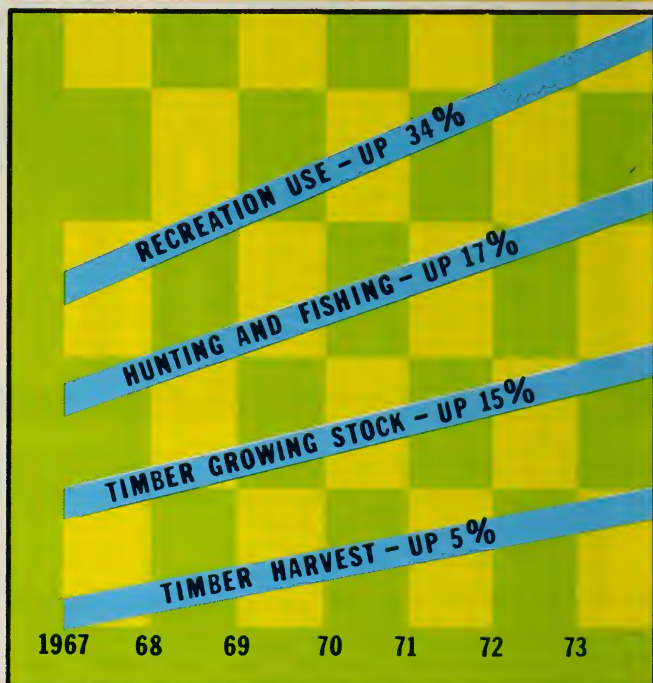


Nature has very limited means to protect forests from successive waves of fires, insects, and diseases that devastate millions of acres. Managed forests, on the other hand, are protected against catastrophes. Research has shown the way to control many insect and disease enemies of the forest, as well as to prevent and suppress wildfires.



WE ARE GIVING NATURE A HELPING HAND
— — TO HELP OURSELVES!!

OUR PRODUCTIVE FORESTS



FORESTS OF THE FUTURE

Nature produces superior individuals of all species, which eventually become the breeding stock for future generations. This happens simply because the parents prove to be better qualified in the constant contests of survival. Even in this process man can help.

Researchers have selected genetically the finest of the forest, carefully tending and expanding this concentrated quality into superior trees. Seeds from forest-tree seed orchards contain the elements for making trees that are taller, straighter, faster growing, and more resistant to insects and diseases. From these will come the forests of the future.

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents,
U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Price 25 cents